



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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District of Arizona*

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## **38-YEAR OLD SACATON MAN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS FOR SECOND DEGREE MURDER**

PHOENIX – Loren James, 38, of Sacaton, Ariz., was sentenced to 180 months in prison, by U.S. District Judge Roslyn O. Silver. James pleaded guilty on September 28, 2006 to Second Degree Murder.

James and a co-defendant, Melvin Pedro, 29, and the victim Kelvin Burnette, 20, had been together on the night of the murder and were all intoxicated. James and the co-defendant became involved in a verbal dispute with the victim. James and Pedro drove Burnette to a remote area of the Gila River Indian Reservation and beat him with a tire iron, causing his death. Pedro pleaded guilty December 19, 2006 to second degree murder and kidnaping and is scheduled to be sentenced on March 12, 2007.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Gila River Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution was handled by Sharon K. Sexton, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-513-PHX-ROS  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2007-024(James)

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